A 32752

Trends

ASSOCIATION OF
AMERICAN RAILROADS
OFFICE OF INFORMATION AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS
1920 L STREET, N.W. · WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036 · 202/293-4196

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, November 1 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended October 27 totaled an estimated 18.6 billion ton-miles, 1.0 percent below the corresponding week a year ago, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 43 weeks of 1979 was an estimated 744 billion ton-miles, 5.7 percent above the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended October 27 totaled 491,197 cars, 4.4 percent below 1978, but 0.4 percent higher than the preceding week of this year. Compared with last year, loadings were down 12.4 percent in the East, 0.8 percent in the South, and 0.1 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week of 1978, 17 of the 21 commodity groups were down. However, coal loadings totaled 117,112, the highest since the week ended November 11, 1978, and grain loadings were up by 3,627 cars, or 12.5 percent. Loadings of motor vehicles and equipment were down 6,383 cars, or 22.6 percent. Twelve of the 21 groups were down from the preceding week of this year.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback revenue freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended October 20 totaled 38,467 cars, up 1.0 percent from the corresponding week of 1978, and 68,220 trailers and/or containers, 4.2 percent higher than last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 42 weeks of the year was 1,511,164, 2.0 percent higher than last year, and 2,667,200 trailers and/or containers, up 4.2 percent.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 10/27.[1]

	Loadings in Week ended October 27, 1979	Change from Corresponding Week 1978		Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars	Cars	Percent	Cars	Percent
Grain	32,563	I 3,627	12.5	I 1,242	4.0
Other farm products	6,110	D 1,833	23.1	D 114	1.8
Metallic ores	32,654	D 1,931	5.6	D 3,931	10.7
Coal	117,112	I 3,509	3.1	I 2,869	2.5
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	17,671	D 4,438	20.1	D 77	0.4
Nonmetallic minerals	17,577	I 1,701	10.7	I 1,720	10.8
Grain mill products	18,962	D 735	3.7	I 1,177	6.6
Food and kindred products	20,050	D 1,669	7.7	I 410	2.1
Primary forest products	21,580	D 775	3.5	D 443	2.0
Lumber and wood products except furniture	11,286	D 1,966	14.8	D 43	0.4
Pulp, paper and allied products	22,018	I 21	0.1	I 1,045	5.0
Chemicals and allied products	28,105	D 1,265	4.3	D 251	0.9
Petroleum products	5,971	D 1,257	17.4	D 230	3.7
Stone, clay and glass products	19,702	D 884	4.3	I 529	2.8
Coke	5,790	D 1,510	20.7	D 939	14.0
Metals and products	17,577	D 2,160	10.9	D 991	5.3
Motor vehicles and equipment	21,920	D 6,383	22.6	D 412	1.8
Waste and scrap materials	13,280	D 1,274	8.8	D 575	4.2
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	13,175	D 325	2.4	D 41	0.3
All other carloads	47,667	D 2,777	5.5	I 816	1.7
LCL traffic	427	D 103	19.4	I 39	10.1
Total Cars Loaded	491,197	D 22,427	4.4	I 1,800	0.4
Corresponding week of 1978	513,624				

	1979	1978	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (42 weeks)	19,879,474	19,209,563	I 3.5
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
42 weeks cumulative	725.7	685.5	I 5.9
Week ended October 27	18.6	18.8	D 1.0
43 weeks cumulative	744.2	704.3	I 5.7

[1] The figures above include 12 railroads no longer considered Class I roads when the qualifying requirement for Class I companies was raised by the ICC from $10 million to $50 million in annual operating revenues as of January 1, 1978.

#

AAR - 110179